

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlled rate dispensing of a liquid contained in a flexible bag, said apparatus including:

a chamber configured to contain the flexible bag, the flexible bag having exterior walls and having an outlet conduit for the liquid;

a source of gas arranged to provide gas to apply pressure to at least part of the exterior walls of the flexible bag in the chamber; and

a pressure regulator positioned between the source of gas and the flexible bag, the pressure regulator being configured to continuously self-regulate a pressure of the gas supplied from the source of gas to continuously maintain the pressure of the supplied gas at a constant and predetermined level and so as to continuously maintain the pressure applied to the exterior walls of the bag at the constant and predetermined level throughout a duration of dispensing of the liquid; the pressure regulator being further configured to self-regulate the pressure of the supplied gas and the pressure applied to the exterior wall continuously throughout the duration of dispensing of the liquid,

whereby the pressure applied to the exterior walls causes liquid to be dispensed from the flexible bag through the outlet conduit at a controlled rate,

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chamber is a substantially gas-tight chamber comprising a liquid outlet configured to receive the outlet conduit and operable to seal the outlet conduit to the chamber,

and

the source of gas is operable to supply the gas under pressure to the interior of the chamber applying pressure to the exterior walls of the flexible bag.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an inflatable bladder, wherein the source of gas is connected to the inflatable bladder which is placed and operable such that, in use, the inflatable bladder is in contact with at least part of an exterior wall of the flexible bag.

5. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the inflatable bladder comprises an inflatable sock positioned and operable to wrap around at least part of the flexible bag.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the source of gas comprises a pressure vessel of pre-compressed gas.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the source of gas comprises a reservoir pressurised by a pump.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the flexible bag is a medical supply bag of a type used to supply intravenous drip fluids for patients.

12. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chamber has a cuboidal configuration with a depth significantly less than a length or width of the chamber, and wherein the pressure vessel and the pressure regulator are located alongside the chamber in a common housing arranged such that the pressure vessel and the pressure regulator are contained within the depth of the housing.

16. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the pressure regulator is operable to regulate a flow of gas from the source of gas into the inflatable bladder.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a second chamber comprising the source of gas and the pressure regulator.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pressure regulator is a compression spring controlled piston device including at least one needle valve operable to regulate the pressure of the gas supplied from the source of gas.